AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method for providing access to application software in the event of inaccessibility of a license management system, comprising the steps of:

    determining whether a user has a valid software license to run a software application on a client workstation including sending a query to the license management system; and

    permitting a recognized user to execute said software application on said client workstation in the event that ~~of inaccessibility of~~ the license management system is unable to receive and/or respond to said query, and/or is unable to communicate with said client workstation about said query.

2.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said permitting step comprises: recognizing said user as a previously valid user, before permitting said recognized user to execute said software application.

3.   (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein said recognizing step comprises: determining if access to said software application by said user has previously been validly authorized via said license management system.

4.   (original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:
        executing said software application in a punishment mode comprising:
            imposing a punishment.

5.   (original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:
        executing said software application in a punishment mode comprises:
            imposing a punishment comprising a time delay.

6.   (original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said punishment mode comprises:

imposing a punishment comprising a time delay is imposed between when said user attempts to run said software application and when said user is permitted to run said software application.

7.   (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said punishment comprises:
increasing said punishment upon occurrence of a first criterion.

8.   (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said punishment comprises:
decreasing said punishment upon occurrence of a second criterion.

9.   (original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
storing recognition of previously authorized access on a local workstation used by said recognized user.

10.   (original) The method according to claim 9, wherein said recognition is stored as an encrypted code key in a register of said local workstation.

11.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said punishment mode comprises:
increasing said punishment if said recognized user subsequently attempts to execute said application in failsafe mode in the event that the license management system is unable to receive and/or respond to said query, and/or is unable to communicate with said client workstation about said queryof inaccessibility of the license management system.

12.   (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said punishment mode comprises:
decreasing punishment if said recognized user subsequently attempts to execute said application including validated authorization by the license management system.

13.   (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein said punishment comprises:

imposing at least one of a time delay, a time limit, a software impediment, and a disablement of functionality of said software application program.

14.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said license management system is a license server.

15.   (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said permitting step comprises determining whether any previously valid authorizations have been established with said license management system by checking a value set when said software application is initially validly installed.

16.   (currently amended) A system for managing access to concurrent software licenses, comprising:

a network;

a license management system coupled to said network operative to authorize a user of a software application; and

a client workstation coupled to said network,

wherein said client workstation comprises a validation device operative to permit a recognized user to execute said software application in the event that the license management system is unable to communicate with said client workstation over said networkof inaccessiblity of a license management system.

17.   (original) The system according to claim 16, wherein said validation device is operative to recognize whether said user previously obtained a valid authorization to execute said software application by said license management system before permitting execution of said software application.

18.   (original) The system according to claim 16, wherein said validation device permits said user to run said software application with a punishment.

19.   (original) The system according to claim 18, wherein said validation device permits said user to execute said software application with said punishment if a previously valid authorization of said user is recognized.

20.   (original) The system according to claim 19, wherein said license management system is a license server.

21.   (original) The system according to claim 19, wherein said punishment comprises at least one of a time delay, a time limit, a software impediment, and a disablement of functionality of said software.

22.   (currently amended) The system according to claim 21, wherein said punishment increases if said user previously attempted access with said ~~inaccessible~~ license management system while said license management system is unable to communicate with said client workstation over said network.

23.   (original) The system according to claim 22, wherein said punishment decreases if said user subsequently is validly authorized using said license management system.

24.   (currently amended) A computer program product embodied on a computer readable medium, said computer program product comprising program logic comprising:

          program code means for enabling a computer to determine whether a user has a valid software license to execute a software application including:

          program code means for enabling the computer to send a query to a license management system; and

          program code means for enabling the computer to permit recognized users to execute said software application in the event ~~of~~ that the license management system is unable to

receive and/or respond to said query, and/or is unable to communicate with the computer about said query~~inaccessibility of said license management system~~.